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may be "It is said (the divine Power) is a shield to the chosen people," or "They say (the divine Power) is a shield to the chosen people," or "Let all now say (the divine Power) is a shield to the chosen people"—Endakutha (the chosen people), wahatanga (shield), eame (they say). Thus it may be a devout expression similar to that of the Hebrew psalmist when he sang "Jehovah is my strength and shield," or again when he sang "Thou, Jehovah, art a shield about me," or again "O Israel, trust thou in Jehovah: He is their strength and shield."

From my study I conclude that the word *dakota* of the Dakota language, and *endakutha* of the cognate Omaha language, both being very ancient words, are derived from the same root, and that they do contain the concept of a group or society of friends, but not in the ordinary sense of the word friend, rather in the mystic sense of a peculiar people.

MELVIN R. GILMORE

#### ANALYSIS OF PRE-COLUMBIAN PIPE DOTTELS

THE American origin in and pre-Columbian use of tobacco has recently been questioned. It occurred to the writers that definite evidence in the matter might be secured by the analysis of the dottels remaining in ancient pipes. Although a number of chemists who were consulted about the matter stated that the chances were very small that any nicotine which might once have been present could survive for so long a period, the experiment of having a chemical analysis made seemed worth while.

The material selected comprised two dottels from Basket-Maker pipes kindly contributed by the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, together with the "cake" from a pipe excavated by the Peabody Museum Expedition from a Basket-Maker site at Savodnecchee, Arizona. The material was given to a well-known firm of analysts, who made a very careful chemical and microchemical investigation. The preliminary tests gave what appeared to be a faint indication of nicotine, but further corroborative tests by other methods failed to confirm this, and the report concluded by stating that "we are forced to conclude as a result of a thorough and exhaustive investigation that none of the samples you sent us contains any nicotine."

The result of the experiment was thus wholly negative, and the analysis neither proves that tobacco was smoked in these ancient

pipes, nor that it was not smoked, since the failure to detect nicotine may be due to the fact that it was not tobacco which was smoked, or to the fact that the nicotine derived from tobacco which had been smoked had wholly disappeared in the course of time.

Although the experiment was thus inconclusive, it was thought of some interest to put on record what is believed to be the first analysis of this sort.

ROLAND B. DIXON  
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